

- ! Ocean Erodible Areas
- ! High Hazard Flood Areas; and,

Public Water Supply AEC's

- ! Fresh Pond.

Some of these AEC's have been mapped generally for this update. See MAP 6. However, the exact location and extent of AEC's found in Kill Devil Hills are determined by on-site inspections.

Estuarine System AEC's

The lands and waters of the estuarine system possess economic and biologic values for the Town and the State. These lands and waters are interdependent and should be managed as a unit. In an effort to maintain the ecological productivity of the estuarine system, the CRC has designated individual components as AEC's and adopted guidelines for their use. These components are the estuarine waters, coastal wetlands, public trust areas, and the estuarine shorelines. All of these AEC's are found within Kill Devil Hills.

The estuarine waters AEC includes all waters of the State's bays, sounds, and streams seaward of the dividing line between coastal and inland fishing waters. In Kill Devil Hills, the estuarine waters AEC includes Kitty Hawk Bay, Buzzard Bay, and the streams draining into them.

The coastal wetlands AEC includes any salt marsh or other marsh subject to regular or occasional flooding by tides, whether or not the tidal waters reach the wetlands through natural or artificial watercourses. Coastal wetlands are important because they provide habitat and produce nutrients which serve as the primary food source for various species of fish and shellfish. The dense vegetation and root networks of the coastal wetlands also help retard shoreline erosion and trap sediments before they reach the estuarine waters. Extensive wetlands line Buzzard Bay and Kitty Hawk Bay.